Service of Dedication

Fifteenth Sunday After Trinity

September 26, 1954

First Lutheran Church

33rd and Grand
Astoria, Oregon

H. Storaasli, Pastor

Consecration

The joyful privilege of dedicating a "House Unto The Lord" is ours today, and as a congregation, we are thankful to Him, who through the years, has thus blessed our collective congregational effort and brought us all into this hour. To His name be the honor and the glory.

But as the people of God in all the generations before us, have joyfully consecrated their temples to the service of the living God, they have ever been alerted to the need of self-dedication to the things of Him, and those things which belong to their "peace."

Men have ever enjoyed the marvelous faculty of fashioning the shapeless building forms of nature, such as wood, steel and stone, into beautiful edifices of worship, but having done this, they can do no more, because life and spirit cannot be transmitted into these forms.

It is rather for the people of God, who, through Christ Jesus, have been made unto Him "living stones" in the great temple of our God—they alone can give life, meaning and form to the temples of worship thus erected and consecrated to the honor and glory of Him who ruleth over all.

Today, as we embrace this joyful opportunity of dedicating our house of worship to the service of our God, may this occasion also be unto us a call for further self-dedication to the things of our Redeeming Lord, the Word and the Sacraments and to the Church which has been purchased with so great a price.

This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118;24.

What we dedicate

The corner site on 33rd and Grand, on which our new building is located, is a plot of ground measuring approximately 90 by 220 feet.

Built in traditional design, with modern applications, the structure is 101 feet long, with an average width of 40 feet and contains nearly 9000 square feet of usable floor space.

On the main floor is located the chancel, sanctuary, an assembly room, the northex and a church office. These areas are all finished in combinations of oak and birch panels. Four Sunday school rooms are located on this floor.

In the balcony sections of the building, three Sunday school rooms, an organ sound chamber and a mother's room have been incorporated.

The basement sections contain two assembly rooms, a stage, a fully equipped kitchen, four Sunday school rooms, a store room, boiler room and two rest rooms. The Sunday school sections of the building are finished in combinations of gumwood and birch.

The building is heated by a fully automatic four sectional hot water system.

The electrical, public address system and light fixtures are of the most modern design.

The chancel furniture, the altar, baptismal font, pulpit and lectern is finished in mahogany. The pews, the new Baldwin organ and Hamilton piano is finished in matching oak. Included also in the equipment is 160 new Samson upholstered folding chairs and miscellaneous other items.

With the exception of an unfinished painted exterior, final color yet to be determined, we are happy to present for dedication a virtually completed and fully equipped church.

The dedication service

3:00 P. M.

Prelude ..... Miss Marion Fremstad, Organist

Processional Hymn ..... "Holy, Holy, Holy", Congregation

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty,
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, Holy, Holy, merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity.

Holy, Holy, Holy, all the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee;
Which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty,
All Thy works shall praise Thy name, in earth and heaven and sea;
Holy, Holy, Holy, merciful and mighty,
God in Three persons, blessed Trinity.

Invocation and Liturgicals ..... Pastor T. Neste, ELC, Anaconda, Montana

Hymn "The Church's One Foundation" ..... Congregation

The Church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is His new creation
By water and the Word;
From heaven He came and sought her
To be His holy bride;
With His own blood he bought her,
And for her life He died.

Elect from every nation,
Yet one o'er all the earth,
Her charter of salvation
One Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy name she blesses,
Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses,
With every grace imbued.

'Mid toil and tribulation,
And tumult of her war,
She waits the consumation
Of peace forevermore;
Till with the vision glorious
Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great Church victorious
Shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union
With God the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion
With those whose rest is won;
O happy ones and holy,
Lord, gives us grace, that we;
Like them, the meek and lowly,
On high may dwell with Thee.

Introductory Word ..... Pastor H. Storaasli

Collect For The Day

Scripture Lessons (with hymn stanzas interspersed)

My God, how wonderful Thou art,
Thy majesty, how bright;
How beautiful Thy mercy seat
In depths of Burning light.

Scripture; I Kings 8; 22-30 ..... Pastor F. L. Ericksen, ELC, Longview, Wash.

How dread are Thine eternal years,
O Everlasting Lord,
By prostrate spirits day and night
Incessantly adored.

Scripture; Psalm 84 ..... Pastor R. Ryden, AUG, Astoria, Ore.

How wonderful, how beautiful,
The sight of Thee must be,
Thine endless wisdom, boundless power,
And awful purity.

Scripture; Psalm 100 ..... Pastor L. Stalsbroten, LF, Astoria, Ore.

O how I fear Thee living God
With deepest, tenderest fears,
And worship Thee with trembling hope,
And penitential tears.

Scripture; Hebrews 10; 19-27 ..... Pastor R. Enquist, ULC, Seaside, Ore.

Yet, I may love Thee too, O Lord,
Almighty as Thou art,
For Thou hast stoopeed to ask of me
The love of my poor heart.

Scripture; John 17; 1-3 ..... Pastor L. Kutz, ALC, Seattle

No earthy father loves like Thee,
No mother e'er so mild,
Bears and forbears, as Thou hast done
With me, Thy sinful child,

Scripture; Revelation 21; 2-6 ..... Pastor T. Neste

My God, how wonderful Thou art,
Thou everlasting Friend,
On Thee I stay my trusting heart,
Till faith in vision end.

Confession of Faith

Choir Anthem—"Bless This House" ..... First Lutheran Church Choir
Directed by Mrs. Grace Eliassen

Dedication Sermon ..... Dr. H. L. Foss
President Pacific District-ELC Church

Junior Choir Selection ..... B. Thomassen, Director

Prayer and Rite of Dedication ..... Dr. H. L. Foss

Hymn—"God's Word Is Our Great Heritage" ..... Congregation

God's word is our great heritage,
And shall be ours forever;
To spread its light from age to age
Shall be our chief endeavor;
Through life it guides our way,
In death it is our stay;
Lord, grant, while world's endure,
We keep its teachings pure,
Throughout all generations.

Greetings

Pastor T. Neste, former pastor, 1906-21.
Pastor L. Kutz, former interim pastor, 1948.
Pastor F. L. Ericksen—from Columbia Circuit.
Dr. Carl Lund, Gresham, Ore.
Mrs. Grace Elaine (Gulhaugen) Fink, Parkland, Wash.
Mrs. Otto Munson, Pres. Columbia Circuit, W.M.F., Portland, Ore.
Mr. P. J. Cosovich, mayor of Astoria.
Pastor Clyde Woods, Pres. Astoria Ministerial Association.
Elmer Hauke, Secretary of Congregation.

Vocal Selection "The Lord's Prayer" Malotte ..... Dan Hall
Accompanist—Miss M. Fremstad

Remarks ..... Pastor H. Storaasli

Offertory—Dedication Offering For the Building Fund

Hymn "Now Thank We All Our God" ..... Congregation

Now thank we all our God,
With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done,
In whom His world rejoices;
Who from our mother's arms
Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love
And still is ours today.

All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given,
The Son and Him who reigns
With them in highest heaven;
The one eternal God,
Whom earth and heaven adore;
For thus it was, is now,
And shall be evermore.

O may this bounteous God,
Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts,
And blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in His grace,
And guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills,
In this world and the next.

Benediction and Closing Prayer ..... Pastor L. Kutz

Doxology ..... Congregation

Postlude ..... Miss Marion Fremstad, Organist

FREE-WILL OFFERING FELLOWSHIP SUPPER—5:30 P. M.

A Cordial Welcome to All
In the Church Parlors

Acknowledgements

On this day of dedication, we wish to make the following congregational acknowledgments.

Our sincerest appreciation is extended to Eino Isaacson, Astoria architect, who assisted the congregation so greatly in the over-all planning of the new church building.

Our congregation's gratitude is extended to the contracting firm of Albert Duoos and Son, who completed the rough framing of our building.

A special word of real appreciation and gratitude is extended to Albert Mittet, Astoria building contractor who so wonderfully made available to the congregation his building talents and supervision, on both exterior and interior phases of our new church building. From the furniture of the church chancel to the stairway leading to the balcony, everywhere, are the evidences of his superb workmanship and we are indeed grateful to him for his fine work and cooperation.

We wish also to thank all of the Astoria firms and building supply houses through whom the congregation has dealt through its building operations. Some of these firms have given outright gifts of a substantial nature to the church, others have favored us with fine discounts in the purchase of building materials. For these considerations we are deeply grateful.

Within the congregation itself our sincerest thanks is extended to all those who have given generously into the building fund of the church. While in this connection we think primarily of the many fine monetary gifts, yet we are also mindful of the many fine and helpful gifts which have been given in the form of building materials.

We are deeply appreciative of the gifts which our church organizations have given in the over-all aspects of our building program.

Our thankful acknowledgment is extended for the fine gift of the Baldwin organ and the Hamilton piano which has added so much to equipment of the church, and also to all those individuals who have sponsored the cost of the new church pews.

Our final word of sincerest acknowledgment is to that small army of congregational workers, who from the very beginning of our building operations, have contributed so abundantly of their time and labor, toward the erection of our new building. Thousands of hours have been generously given and thousands of dollars have thus been saved in building costs by those who were willing to loan "as unto the Lord" the talents of their minds and hands. This, throughout our building operations, it has ever been one of the fine aspects of it. The Lord bless the work of all those who have thus labored.

Historical sketch

Our church in Astoria was first established in 1876 by the Reverend Emil Christensen who had been sent out west by the Norwegian Lutheran Synod of America to help develop the Lutheran Church on the coast. The Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran congregation was organized on January 27, 1877 and services were held first in the Episcopal Chapel, located on the upper side of Grand Avenue between Thirty-first and Thirty-third Streets; then in a school house on Thirty-fourth and later with the Swedish people in their building on Franklin. After a few years this congregation was terminated.

On October 2, 1884 the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran congregation was incorporated and this body, later known as the Norwegian Lutheran and at present as the First Lutheran, has been in continuous existence since then.

During these early years the church was served by a number of pastors and met in various temporary quarters. Property was acquired on 29th and Grand Avenue in 1888 and on May 8, 1893, the new church was first used. It was only a small chapel, built where the parsonage now stands, but later it was moved and enlarged. A parsonage was then built.

Now, the church grew under the able leadership of its pastors. Its Ladies Aid is the oldest on the Pacific Coast in our Synod. Other organizations were developed and contributed in carrying out the Lord's work.

Finally, this building was too small and old for the growing congregation and in 1945 the first funds were given for a new church. In 1951 the actual building was begun and the cornerstone was laid on January 25, 1952. Services have been held in our new location since Palm Sunday of 1954.

We rejoice that we are now ready to dedicate our new home of worship to the continual service of our Lord and Saviour.

Compiled by Mrs. Nedra Christensen

For further historical data, a booklet entitled The Life History of Our Church is available at a cost of 50 cents. Inquire of ushers.

MINISTERS WHO HAVE SERVED THE CONGREGATION

Pastor Emil Christensen, 1877-79
Pastor Ellefson
Pastor Bull
Pastor Carlson
Pastor Hoikka
Pastor H. Engh, 1884
Pastor Hove, 1890
Pastor Levorsen, 1891
Pastor Neissen, 1893
Pastor Tonnesen, 1894-96
Pastor O. M. Holden, 1897
Pastor H. W. Sorenson
Pastor Aaberg
Pastor T. P. Neste, 1906-1921
Pastor Carl Losen, 1921-27
Pastor M. A. Christensen, 1927-1936
Pastor T. Gulhaugen, 1936-48
Pastor H. Storaasli, 1948—

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